Volunteer

THE PEACE CORPS VOL VIII NOS 7-8 JULY-AUGUST 1970

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Mike Ascolese.
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Tonga:
Andre Neu.
Uganda:
Vicky Riback.
Uruguay:
William Purdy.

Cover
Portrait of a *campesino* by Steve Vetter, whose photos appear with others by Jonathan Siegel in a study of rural Colombia (see below).

5 "With a little help from our friends."
by James P. Grant.
The President of the Overseas Development Council looks at two recent establishment studies of assistance to underdeveloped countries, and their implications for the Peace Corps.

9 To Bear Witness as a Man
by Gordon Dalbey
A classic cross-cultural encounter, by a former Nigeria Volunteer. A reminder that foreign aid is defined as much by its human coordinates as by its content.

12 Binationalism in Ghana
by Isaac Sam
Both studies cited by James Grant in his article recommend a closer working partnership between rich and poor nations. A young host national associate director talks of binationalism in his country, why it is necessary, and how it has helped Peace Corps get on with its mission there.

15 Rural Colombia
Photos by Steve Vetter and Jonathan Siegel
En surcos de dolores, El bien germina ya—Colombian National Anthem
A moving portrait of rural Latin America through the eyes of two returned Colombia Volunteers.

Departments

1 Rap
2 Letters
24 News
26 Switchboard
29 Making It
30 Survival

Photo credits
Susan Biddle, pg. 25.
Jonathan Siegel, pp. 19, 20, 21, 23.
Steve Vetter, pp. 16-17, 18, 20, 22.

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rap

For two months our statement of editorial purpose has read: "To support, advise and describe the work of the Peace Corps community."

That sounds, perhaps, a bit *ex cathedra,* words of people who think they know what's happening and how things ought to be.

We don't mean it that way.

Our intent is to make the *Volunteer* as useful a magazine as possible, to make it work for you and help you get on with the important work you are doing.

Of late we have drifted Stateside in our coverage. There is little material coming in from the field and this has, perhaps, led us into internal issues of less concern to those of you wrestling with day-to-day problems. Our production slowed a bit.

But that's behind us.

And now?

Well, we're not entirely sure. But here are a few of the things we are trying:

First, we are introducing a number of regular columns which address themselves to specific concerns of large segments of the Peace Corps community (as near as we have been able to identify them): *Letters* (an open forum for discussion of issues facing the Peace Corps today); *Survival* (a place to exchange medical advice, housekeeping tips, recipes, gadgets, anything which makes living abroad safer and easier); *Making It* (a section devoted to useful Volunteer technical innovations); *Media* (for audio-visual tools and techniques); *Switchboard* (a switchboard).

Second, we are trying to rebuild the *Volunteer* correspondent system, to keep everyone informed about important developments in each Peace Corps country, and help us research major stories.

Third, we will announce in advance themes and issues which we plan to investigate in order to give everyone a chance to participate. A few currently on our planning board:

Ecology: Is Peace Corps making things worse?

Nationalism in Africa: Are we on the way out?

The Psychology of the overseas experience: what changes does a Volunteer go through abroad and what do they mean?

The War: Has it affected our work abroad? How?

Training in 1970: How it's done and how it works.

Volunteer innovations in low-cost housing.

Science: how much is relevant and how should it be taught?

Tuning-in to culture: How to do it.

Professionals in the Peace Corps: can they relate?

There is nothing final about any of these steps. If something doesn't work, we will drop it; if something better comes along, we will try it.

But we need help.

We need more correspondents, to help us do a better job.

We need more and better material from all segments of the Peace Corps community: articles, photoessays, poetry, project descriptions, ideas, plans, critiques.

And you need help too, all the support you can get.

We need to begin to share what we know and what we are learning. That is the real purpose of this magazine.

If you would like to help, write us.

Our job in Washington is to get it all together.

Correction: The May-June issue included numbers 5-6

John Osborn

letters

To The Volunteer:

I find it difficult to accept the reasoning behind John Osborn's article in the March-April *Volunteer*. What is difficult to accept is that he fails to distinguish between political expression and political dissent. He does not caution against supporting government policies, even though such support is as much a political expression as is dissent. He leaves the impression that political expression becomes a matter of concern only when it takes the latter form. This makes a hypocrisy of free speech in the Peace Corps.

To remain silent is to give approval—and that can be more irresponsible and damaging than speaking out. I would add to Mr. Osborn's quotation from the *I Ching* a quotation from closer to home: *"To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men"*

—(Abraham Lincoln).

The great confusion in the article lies in the form of dissent and the responsibility for interpreting—or misinterpreting—dissent. This reflects a confusion in Peace Corps itself—that the Volunteer is at the same time not a member of the U.S. government and answerable to the government. This contradictory relationship can only be cleared up by the Peace Corps in Washington. Since any form of dissent can be misinterpreted, either willfully or unintentionally, the Peace Corps must decide either to accept dissent, fight for it in Congress, and accept the consequences, or to discourage dissent and accept the consequences of that decision.

The ambiguity expressed in Mr. Osborn's article and the ambiguity of present policy [Rogers separates Peace Corps from diplomatic missions (pg. 9) and the Chilean mission threatens expulsion (pg. 11)] cannot go on. There must be either a recognition and defense of political freedom for the Volunteer or a campaign of political sterilization for the Peace Corps.

Peter Notier
Feletoa, Tonga

To The Volunteer:

Thank you for your thoughtful and intelligent articles on dissent in the Peace Corps. I read them with a growing appreciation of the problems faced by the "home office" in dealing with their constituencies.

What was missing, however, was any article written by a dissenting Volunteer, who surely has a different set of constituencies to answer to: his conscience, his associates and friends, the Peace Corps staff and policies. How does he feel when his co-workers or students suspect that he is a CIA agent? How does he feel when, after looking at the rest of American foreign policy, many people (perhaps including himself) find it hard to imagine that the Peace Corps isn't out to exploit them, too? I'll never forget the half-serious comment of a Nigerian student in the calmer era of 1964: "This year your government sent Peace Corps Volunteers to Nigeria and troops to Vietnam; maybe next year they will send troops to Nigeria and Peace Corps Volunteers to Vietnam."

I doubt if such comments are made in jest any more. How do you answer them? How much damage do such suspicions do to the Peace Corps?

Ron Hert (*Volunteer,* September 1969) has suggested that opposition to American foreign and domestic policies was an important factor in the expulsion of the Peace Corps from Tanzania. The American military build up in Ethiopia has hurt the abilities of PCVs to function there and has led to the resignation of its director. There are, unfortunately, dozens of similar cases.

Editor Osborn wrote that most PCVs have concluded that, because of the inevitable backlash in Congress and the media, "there is no way dissent can be staged without hurting the Peace Corps." Yet how much more is the Peace Corps being hurt by the lack of American commitment to the policies of peace, understanding, and development which the Peace Corps was founded to serve?

Protest hurts the Peace Corps, but it may well be very much the lesser of two evils.

David Northrup
Former Volunteer
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

To The Volunteer:

As I see it, Peace Corps can be either an organic society with Volunteers living and working overseas; or it can be a bureaucratic mechanism with automatons following orders overseas. There is no real middleground, only the guagmire of doubt and despair Peace Corps is so familiar with. Peace Corps seems to have the foolish notion it can fit real live people into its bureaucratic government and still

maintain stability; whereas it should be clear that the only animals that fit into a bureaucracy are bureaucrats.

The questions you asked on page 9 of the March-April *Volunteer* are discouraging as they are relevant only to Peace Corps as a bureaucracy. If you want us young Americans overseas, you will have to take us as we are. If you can't, don't take us at all. You have tried fitting us into the bureaucracy and are finding it doesn't work. Since we won't change, it is up to you to change.

If those alternatives of either change yourself or don't take us are too clear-cut, there is, of course, a third alternative. That is, change your image by recruiting those who will make good automatons for your bureaucratic machine.

According to Agnew and Nixon there are quite a few of those around.

Don Young
Truk District, Micronesia

To The Volunteer:

Having read about increased political activism on the part of Volunteers, I wonder how Volunteers find the time to demonstrate against U.S. foreign policy. Our jobs as Volunteers are to stay busy building roads and schools, teaching school, raising crop outputs, improving sanitation conditions and in short doing what we can to make a few people a little better off. If one is dedicated to working in his site, forays to stage protest against the United States should have low priority.

Furthermore, not everyone in the Peace Corps is of the liberal persuasion. The Peace Corps is as much for conservatives as it is for liberals. It is as much for Republicans as it is for Democrats. It is as much for those who support the U.S. effort in Southeast Asia as it is for those who oppose it.

Therefore, I should think it best for Volunteers to stick to the immediate challenges of their sites rather than jeopardize the Peace Corps' standing. Since Volunteers do not have the same political inclinations it is unfair to use the organization as a forum to represent one's beliefs, because the public can be mislead into thinking that what represents the opinion of some Volunteers is Peace Corps policy.

Curt Hayden
Managua, Nicaragua

To The Volunteer:

Your treatment of the Bruce Murray case in the April, 1970 issue of the *Volunteer* was rather glib and superficial. What action, if any, did the Peace Corps take against Country Director Bell? The entire handling of the Bruce Murray case points up that the Peace Corps has not recruited staff who have a sense of justice and essential due process.

Second, I find your whole discussion, both in the Bruce Murray article and the one "Peace Corps on the Line" deceptive. While pretending to study with great seriousness the issue of freedom of expression on the part of Volunteers and balancing it with the requirement that they remain "apolitical," your article on Somalia snidely condemns the new government for ousting the Peace Corps. Isn't that involvement of the worst sort in the politics of another country, or doesn't it count since we have already been expelled. If the Peace Corps were serious about being apolitical, the eloquent photographic essay, free from such comments as "it took the new government less than two months to put a stop to [Peace Corps programs]," would have sufficed. I suggest you should clean your own house first, before exercising the power of determining the limits of free speech of Volunteers.

Martin R. Ganzglass
Former Volunteer
North Bergen, New Jersey

To The Volunteer:

The anti-war petition circulated among Volunteers in Chile in 1967 was to be sent to the *Times* for publishing—it was not going to appear in (and was not meant for) the Chilean local newspapers. This salient and misstated fact tends to re-color the whole argument even more forcefully. The signers were Volunteers expressing their opinions about American foreign policy in an American newspaper to an American public. This in no way violates a Volunteer's "apoliticalness" within the host country and host country politics.

Anne Jefferies
Former Volunteer
Princeton, New Jersey

Editor's Note—In the article to which Miss Jefferies refers ("The Bruce Murray Case," March-April Volunteer*) we stated that, "Names of signers of the anti-war petition were to appear in local newspapers (pg. 11)."*

According to the findings of the Rhode Island U.S. District Court, "The petition's ambition was a large signing by Latin American Volunteers and eventual publication in the New York Times."

The allegation that Volunteers intended to publish their petition in local papers indeed misrepresents the issue.

To The Volunteer:

We have read with interest your article, "Protest in Afghanistan (A Case Study)," which appeared in the March-April issue of your magazine. As we would appear to be the "three Volunteers" continually referred to by your writer, we wish to describe our exact function in the activities which occurred in relation to Mr. Agnew's Kabul visit.

By mid-December there was increasing talk among a large number of Volunteers about expressing their concern over the Vietnam war during Mr. Agnew's stay. Five Volunteers arranged a meeting with our director, Lou Mitchell, to discuss possible repercussions of any and all such expressions.

In subsequent meetings, the number of Volunteers present dropped to the three of us for practical reasons. We were free (school had recently closed for vacation); we were in Kabul (from which Volunteers and staff could easily be contacted); together, we knew all the Volunteers in-country.

Our precise function during these meetings was that of a sounding board between staff and Volunteers, though your article would cast us in the roles of radical leaders. There were no such leaders. "Protest in Afghanistan" was a general Volunteer and staff movement.

As the time of Mr. Agnew's visit approached, and as we had repeatedly stated that the three of us could not speak for all the Volunteers, Mr. Mitchell called a general, open meeting on Saturday, January 3, 1970. This meeting brought together approximately 70 Volunteers and 20 trainees (many more than the 30 to 40 Volunteers which your article mentioned) as well as most of the Afghan and American staff.

Long before that meeting, Volunteers (not Mr. Mitchell, as your article stated)

had suggested a private talk with Mr. Agnew; they had also suggested writing letters to Mr. Agnew. The discussion with Mr. Agnew did not materialize, supposedly due to his busy schedule; the letters did materialize—about 50 of them—and were collected *before* this January 3 meeting. (You quoted Abdul Matin, an Associate Peace Corps Director, as saying: "At the end of four or five hours of talking on Saturday (January 3), the Volunteers decided they would write letters to Agnew. . . ." The fact remains this particular idea was originally suggested in early December and that the ensuing letters were collected *before* this meeting.)

As another major distortion, you further quoted Mr. Matin as saying that no one in official Peace Corps said "You can't do it" in relation to a public protest. Mr. Matin stated that "there were no threats."

Director Mitchell had written in a December 30 memo addressed to all Volunteers: "At this time, after considerable thought and analysis, *I am convinced* that traditional forms of public demonstration, especially one coinciding with the Vice President's visit, will be viewed by the Royal Government of Afghanistan as unfortunate and inconsistent with their policies of neutrality and traditions of hospitality. For these reasons, *I would have no choice but to initiate termination procedures*" (The italics are ours).

Perhaps this statement and subsequent oral statements to the same effect did not strike Mr. Matin as threatening; to those concerned, the Volunteers, these remarks appeared *quite* threatening.

You again quoted Mr. Matin. This time he said that "the sentiments of these 30 to 40 Volunteers (sic) were somewhat different than the three who attended previous meetings. The larger group was not agreeing with the three."

Agree with what?

Writing letters to Mr. Agnew? Our three separate letters were included with those 50 collected.

Wearing arm bands? Volunteers (including two of us) had worn arm bands before in conjunction with the November and December Moratoriums.

The only "new" idea suggested at this January 3 meeting was that of a "symbolic protest" on the grounds of the American Embassy. As with all other kinds of expression, each Volunteer made up his own mind about the particular protest. Seven Volunteers and two staff members participated. We did not.

There remains a major incident which you *omitted:* the recall to Washington of two of our staff members after Mr. Agnew's visit. We do not claim to know the full story on this; however, this recall has struck many Volunteers here as an attempt to stifle dissent concerning U.S. policy.

Your biased story certainly supports your original claim that the news media distort news. You have excelled in the distortion department.

Denise Behar
Mike McGrath
Norm Rosen
Kabul, Afghanistan

Editor's Note—The record stands amended.

However, it is apparent there are several interpretations as to the exact nature of events which took place in Kabul in January.

In preparing the article, "Protest in Afghanistan," the Volunteer *interviewed a number of people who had been close to the incident, as well as reading all related cable traffic and correspondence. We did not—as the authors of the letter justly point out—interview directly any Afghanistan Volunteers on the matter. But neither did we receive any written reports from those who took part.*

Thus the bias of our story, if there was one, was not deliberate. The story was a careful summation of the material in our possession at the time we went to press. And we had no reason to doubt the integrity of our sources.

John True and Larry Beck, the two staff members to whom the letter refers, were called to Washington in February to give officials here a first-hand account of the incident, according to individuals questioned by the Volunteer. *They met with General Counsel lawyers, NANESA staffers and Director Blatchford. Those meetings, says an official who was present, were "relaxed, friendly and informative."*

Both True and Beck returned to their jobs immediately following their consultations here.

Editor's Note—In the March-April issue of the Volunteer *we reported the death of Susan Davey, a Volunteer who had been serving as a teacher in Liberia.*

Her brother Michael, who flew there for services, later wrote a letter of appreciation to Liberia Country Director Dale Chastain. It speaks well to everyone working overseas.

Dear Dale [Chastain],

I must apologize for not writing sooner to express the gratitude of my family for your kindness. I wish I had been able to see you in Liberia, because I was so tremendously affected by what I saw there.

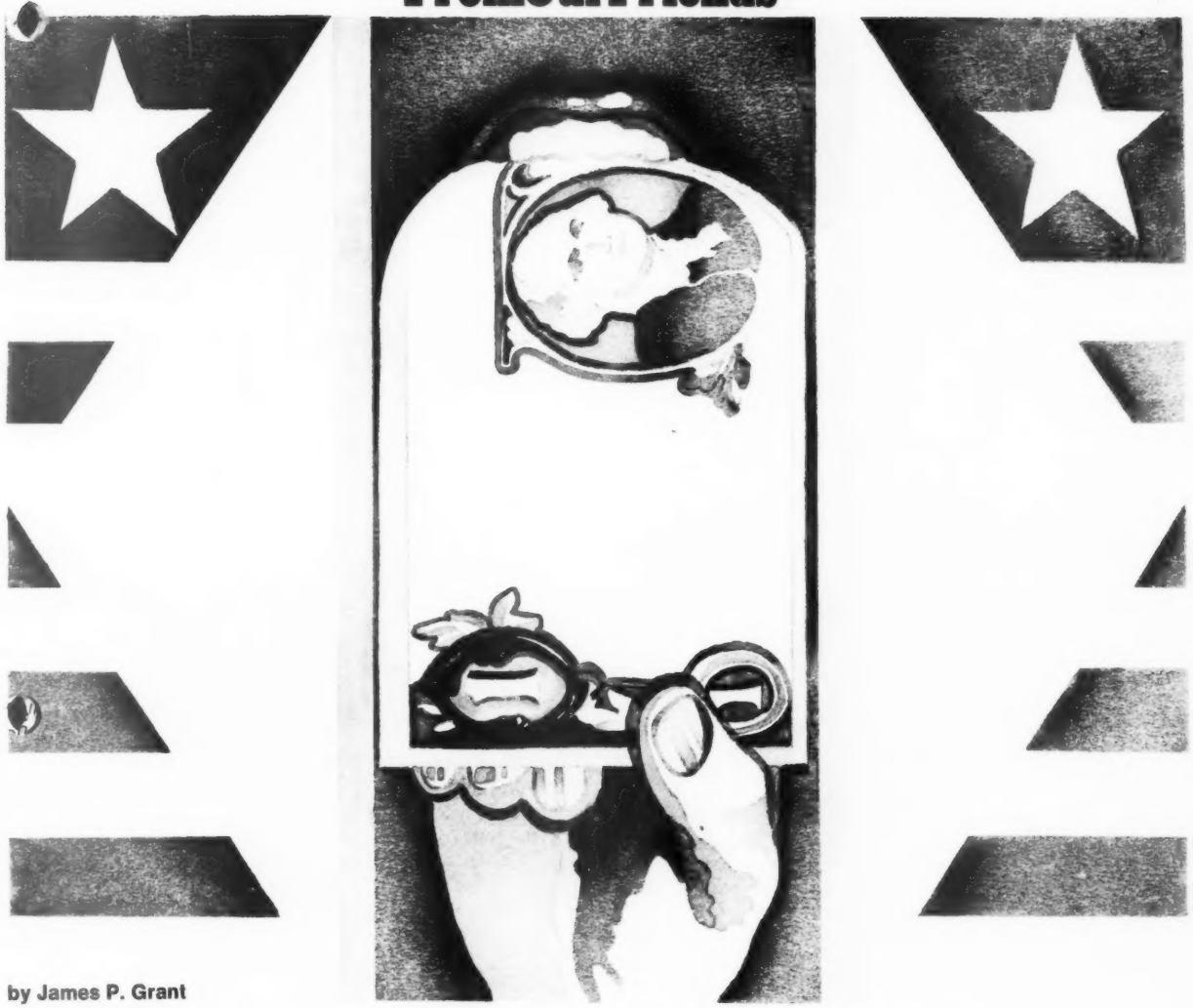
I came away with far more than the intended laying to rest of my sister. The glimpse I had into Susan's life and the people she worked with, was more than satisfying; it was edifying. Everyone wants to feel he has some meaning, stands for something, is contributing in some small way to some one besides himself. This desire is the motivation behind many of the Volunteers. The amazing thing is that in some way the Peace Corps seems to be able to act as the catalyst for some to fulfill this desire. I always felt that it would be impossible for an agency, especially one of the government, to give this to someone. Evidently, it works, judging from what I saw in Liberia. And probably one of the reasons it does is because you all lack pretension. There seemed to be no airs of the zealous do-gooder. It appears that the Volunteer must first be taught to understand himself before he can accomplish anything for others. This low-keyed, unpresumptuous attitude works and can only be derived from a definite understanding and awareness.

Another hallmark that was most noticeable was the manner in which all the directors identified with the Volunteers rather than a set of directives, codes, or mandates. When the directors discussed what was being done they were implicitly talking about Volunteers, rather than a program.

This peculiar interaction that has been developed through the Peace Corps must be fragile, and I can understand why it must be temporary. I feel better for having seen it.

Michael Davey, D.D.S.
Chicago, Ill.

With A Little Help From Our Friends



by James P. Grant

The philosophical framework that held United States development efforts together in the early '60's is coming apart at the seams. Ten years ago, assistance to developing countries was justified as an investment in national security, a justification founded on an odd mixture of humanitarianism and fear. But by the end of the '60's, the fears generated by the Cold War had begun to subside, and as they did so, the impetus for aid funding dropped sharply.

Today, U.S. foreign aid to developing nations is declining, a state of affairs made worse by the increasing skepticism of the American public about its purpose, effectiveness and past accomplishments. At the same time, other developed nations, after increasing their official assistance by more than 50 percent in the '60's, are also beginning to falter.

The collapse of American involvement in world development has led to several studies to determine how aid to poor countries can be internationalized and improved.

The most important of these are the Pearson Commission report, *Partners in Development* (October, 1969) and the Peterson Task Force Report, *U.S. Foreign Assistance in the 1970s: A New Approach* (March, 1970).

Lester Pearson, who headed the first study, is a former Prime Minister of Canada. He undertook his project at the request of Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank.

Rudolph Peterson, who chaired the second, is the former President of the Bank of America. His task force was appointed by President Richard Nixon to re-examine the underlying rationale for U.S. foreign aid and to determine whether a new organizational structure is required.

The two reports bear the stamp of Establishment respectability and copies of both are scattered throughout every international agency in Washington. It is only a matter of time before they will begin to have a far-reaching impact on American foreign assistance planning.

The Pearson Commission found considerable alarm among poor countries over the current state of foreign aid. Government aid from rich countries is declining, the Commissoners reported, and private aid and lending has increased to only a few, like Mexico.

At the same time, wrote the Commission, the terms and

conditions of foreign assistance have hardened, increasing its cost to recipient countries, while fathering incredibly complex regulations governing its use.

All of these factors have led many developing countries to cut back their planned rates of growth in anticipation of the worst.

"Precisely because the developing countries see their forward momentum threatened by bleak aid prospects," the Commissioners wrote, "they feel a growing sense of frustration which tends to embitter relations between rich and poor."

What is needed, the Commissioners said, is "a willingness to look at the total economic relationship between developing and industrialized countries." And what is also needed, they added, is more money and greater international cooperation.

The report of the Commission proposes a global strategy that encompasses many areas amenable to self-help development schemes. But its primary emphasis is on the steps rich countries must take to encourage trade, private investment and aid money, and to strengthen institutions for multilateral assistance. Partnership, not competition, must be the wave of the future, says the report.

The Pearson report is quite specific in its recommendations for growth rates and economic aid in the 1970's.

Poor nations, it says, must grow at a rate of "at least six percent," a rate which is both realistic and feasible. Such a rate is necessary if presently poor countries are to become free of the need for further concessional aid by the end of the century.

How much money will it take to enable them to grow that fast?

After stressing that the growth of trade between rich and poor, combined with effective self-help measures is essential to any development plan, the Commission report concludes that total financial assistance—public and private—to poor countries must reach a level of at least one percent of the gross national product of the rich countries by 1975.

In absolute numbers, that means total aid from all developed countries must increase from its 1968 level of $12.8 billion to $21.7 billion in 1975. The contribution of the United States must increase from 5.7 billion (1968 figure) to $11.1 billion. During the period of the Marshall Plan, a time of acute international tension, U.S. assistance to Europe reached two percent of its gross national product. American assistance overseas was at the one percent level as recently as 1961.

But international tensions are not as acute today, and unlike the aid of yesteryear, development assistance in the 1970's must relate directly to the development goals of the countries it serves and not to national political objectives.

So why should anyone give any aid at all?

The Pearson Commission justified the need for development assistance primarily in terms of enlightened and constructive self-interest. We are living in a "global village," it said, a concept that requires all countries to work together. Development of the world's resources and international trade helps not only those countries now economically weak, but also those strong and wealthy.

The U.S. holds the key as to whether aid will be provided in anything approaching the amounts said to be required by the Commission. For if the United States, with a greater production capacity than Europe and Japan together, fails to provide its share, the prospects are dim indeed that the other countries will provide theirs.

The Pearson Report offers a conservative approach to a radical goal: a world-wide development effort designed to achieve self-sustaining growth within a generation for a majority of the developing countries, and a vast expansion of world trade for the benefit of all.

Not so the Peterson study.

The Peterson Task Force avoids stating development goals in any specific way, either for the coming decade or the rest of the century. Rather, it calls for new American institutions capable of helping in an international effort to achieve world-wide development rather than national political security.

To prepare for such an effort, the Peterson Task Force recommended that the following organizations be established to coordinate future American aid programs:

A U.S. International Development Bank, responsible for making capital and related technical assistance loans in selected countries and for selected programs of special interest to the United States. The Bank would have a range of lending terms appropriate to the development requirements of each borrowing country.

A U.S. International Development Institute to seek new breakthroughs in the application of science and technology to resources and processes critical to the developing nations. The Institute would concentrate on research, training, population problems, and social and civic development.

An Overseas Private Investment Corporation to mobilize and facilitate the participation of U.S. private capital and business skills in international development.

A U.S. International Development Council to assure that international development receives greater emphasis in U.S. trade, investment, financial, agricultural, and export-promotion policies. It also would be responsible for making sure that U.S. assistance policies are effectively directed toward long-

Both reports discussed by Dr. Grant have been published, and make interesting reading for anyone involved in the grass-roots problems of development.

The Peterson Report, *Partners in Development,* has been printed by Praeger Paperbacks and sells for $2.95 in the United States. The 399-page document is available from Praeger Publishers, 111 Fourth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003 or 5, Cromwell Place, London, S.W. 7, England.

The Peterson Report, *U.S. Foreign Assistance in the 1970s: A New Approach,* can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The report is 39 pages long and costs 30 cents.

term development purposes and are coordinated with the work of international organizations.

But more important than the structural changes recommended by the Task Force are the principles which the reorganization would embody. First, military assistance would be separated from that aid given specifically for the benefit of assisting the development and growth of other less fortunate countries. Second, the United States would shift away from bilateral aid, increasing its participation in international assistance efforts, thus helping strengthen multilateral institutions. Finally, the reorganization would insulate development assistance programs from short-run foreign policy objectives by placing them outside of the State Department while the multi-year appropriations called for by the Task Force would buffer them from the political whims of Congress.

The tone of the Peterson Report reflects President Nixon's general policy of not arousing expectations that may not be met. The Report avoids a stirring call for more ambitious American development goals, but it also prescribes a more modest role for U.S. agencies in guiding the policies of developing countries. In one of its most important sentences, the Report says:

The U.S. program must assume a supporting role and not become involved in the entire range of country development policies and programs.

How?

The Report recommends a drastic reduction, if not virtual elimination, of large overseas resident U.S. missions. It also proposes using host government advisory technicians abroad rather than Americans. And it suggests the U.S. capacity to supervise management of its programs overseas should be dismantled, as multilateral institutions build up their resident management capacities.

The Peterson Report shows throughout an awareness that "the illusion of American omnipotence", in the phrase of British writer Denis Brogan, *is* an illusion. Its recommendations would help us avoid in the future the temptation to do good, the temptation to insist not only that virtue be done, but done in our own particular way.

A great nation cannot live by the mere avoidance of temptation. Through an international framework, through adherence to the multilateralism proposed by the Peterson Task Force, the U.S. can make a larger contribution to the total world development effort, consistent with the expanded contribution of other developed countries, without reverting to the postures of domination and interventionism that were sometimes a part of our aid in the past.

What about the Peace Corps?

During the early debates on the organization in 1961, a decision was made to separate the new Agency from A.I.D. This was felt necessary in order to keep the infant Peace Corps from being both lost in the massive A.I.D. bureaucracy and from the political machinations so often attendant to A.I.D. type operations abroad.

The Peace Corps is now firmly established. It is a strong and on-going entity. But it needs to seriously examine the question of how it can relate to the objectives of the Peterson Task Force and the Pearson Report.

In 1961, the Peace Corps was given three tasks:

- To improve the image of the U.S. overseas;
- to give youth an opportunity to contribute to other societies and to their own upon returning home; and
- to make a contribution to development abroad.

On the first two, the Peace Corps should receive an "A", and somewhere between a "C-" and a "C" on the last. Host nations have made continued improvements in their knowledge of what it takes to bring about socio-economic growth by effectively using any and all sources of aid. The Peace Corps would be ill-advised to attempt to move through the critical years of the 1970s with the priorities in the same order.

The question of whether the Peace Corps is a development agency or a "university in dispersion" was endlessly discussed during the past decade. The alternatives are no longer optional: host countries expect Volunteers to make a contribution to their development goals. To the extent that they are unable to do so in the 1970s will be the degree to which host countries find the Volunteers' presence increasingly difficult to justify. Moreover, Volunteers who do not realize a significant development benefit from their efforts will question the value of the Peace Corps.

The Peterson Report recommends the Director of the Peace Corps be a member of its proposed International D[illegible]velopment Council. It is important for the Council and [illegible] Peace Corps to work together in a partnership. Not only would this add to the development contribution the Peace Corps can make in the future, but it would also enhance the capabilities of the new Council to respond to the demands of the 1970s.

The decisions that will soon be made about the future degree and substance of U.S. development assistance will also affect the future of the Peace Corps. If the United States decides to back away from assistance to developing nations and continues its downward course of the past several years, the Peace Corps will suffer accordingly, for it cannot remain separated from the total U.S. approach to the problems of development assistance to host governments. If the United States takes the opportunity to move into long-term approaches to development, then the Peace Corps must decide in what arena it wants to perform: on the sidelines as a separate agency, or within the new international framework . . . where the action is certain to be.

James P. Grant is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Overseas Development Council, a non-profit center for the study, research and analysis of economic development issues.

He was born in China in 1922, and educated at Berkeley, where he received his B.A. in 1943. From 1943 to 1945 he served in the United States Army, and saw ground action in both Burma and China.

He received a Doctor of Laws degree from Harvard in 1951 and practiced law in Washington for four years.

Before being appointed to the Council, he served with both the Agency for International Development and the State Department in Asia and the Middle East.

He and his wife and their three children live in Washington, D.C.

ToBearWitnessAsAMan

By E. Gordon Dalbey, Jr.

Affirming his love for America and his consequent right to "criticize her perpetually," James Baldwin concludes his introduction to *Notes of a Native Son,* "I want to be an honest man and a good writer." The subtle tension implied in fulfilling both such roles is the major dilemma facing every Peace Corps teacher.

As an educator, the Volunteer serves ostensibly as a purveyor, and not as a critic. When, as a foreigner, however, the Volunteer brings his scientific education into a culture which values community response over cause-and-effect reality, he assumes *de facto* the role of critic. This difficulty in balancing my role as appreciative observer of host country mores with that as instructor of quite different values hounded me time and again at my high school in Nigeria. After one incident in particular, I began to wonder if, indeed, a Peace Corps Volunteer can hope to become an honest man and a good teacher.

One hot afternoon shortly after my arrival at the school, I was helping a group of my students—all of the Igbo tribe—stack cement blocks at a classroom construction site. I had just joined the grunts and heaving when I noticed in amazement that everyone was lifting the 50-lb. blocks by bending [illegible] the hip, with knees locked and legs straight. Sensing a classic "learning situation," I immediately called a stop to the work. The crew, grateful for a respite, gathered around.

Why, I demanded, wiping sweat and cement from my blond eyebrows, was everyone lifting the blocks with his knees locked straight and back bent over?

Shifting silence, but no reply.

Who there knew what a hernia is? I asked.

Murmurs at last; then a hand, white with cement.

"Ignatius . . .?"

Hernia, Ignatius declared, was a disease passed on from one man to another. Fresh murmurings, semi-agreeable nods. Disgusted, I raised my voice: "No, never," I scoffed—How many there had actually known of a hernia in his immediate family?

A forest of hands shot up instantly. I was pleased at such an abundant sample, but nevertheless sobered by the realization that the ailment was so widespread among the Igbo people—entirely, it seemed, through mere ignorance of the proper lifting method. No less sobering was the conviction that I, myself, was faced then and there with the opportunity to redeem an entire tribe of people from their misery.

From the raised hands, I called at once to Cletus, my best geometry student, and asked him to explain to his fellow students just how his father had gotten a hernia. Stepping from the group, Cletus declared without hesitation that, well, it seemed there were enemies in his clan who one day put an evil spell on his father and . . . "that was it, Sir."

"What?!" I said, incredulous.

"Yes, that is right," affirmed another voice.

I sighed, a mixture of confusion and determination. Obviously, the lesson would have to become more three-dimensional. I recalled Cletus to the front. "Alright," I said, "please come here, Cletus, and just start to lift this block like you were doing before."

Curious, the students gathered closely around the two of us. Shrugging his shoulders in matter-of-fact compliance, Cletus bent over from the hip, knees stiffened, straight, and grasped the block.

"That's right," I announced. "Now, do you feel any strain, Cletus, any place in particular"? Cletus grunted. "Below the stomach, Sir."

Noticing that the group's attention was wandering, I decided to become dramatic. "And *where*," I shouted, "does hernia strike?" The cluster of students shifted together. "Below the stomach, Sir," said a voice.

Decisively, I threw my arms out toward the group, wheeling around triumphantly like a magician. And then, taking advantage of the hush, I asked Cletus in my most directive voice to stand up and lift the block again—this time, however, to bend his knees and rise from a squat, keeping his back straight. Hesitating strangely, Cletus glanced at his classmates.

"Well, go ahead," I said impatiently. Reluctantly, Cletus turned his back to the group and squatted to grasp the block.

"There," I declared: "Any pain"?

"Below me," Cletus wavered. "A little hard on the upper legs, Sir."

"And what about below the stomach?" I asked.

"No pain below the stomach, Sir."

"Q. E. D.," I announced, bowing decisively before the class. Hardly able to control my excitement, I looked from face to face expectantly.

A silence, then puzzled whispers. But no reply, not even a [illegible]e face glowing with revelation.

My God," I burst loudly, *"look!"* Squatting smoothly before a nearby block, I hefted it gingerly onto our stack. And suddenly, a wave of laughter swept over me.

"Now what?!" I demanded, angry at the interruption and thoroughly baffled. Casually, the laughter circled around my question, and as I listened again I heard not the ridicule which follows a cripple trying to walk, but the sort of natural amusement at a duck walking. Alone, I turned to Cletus, who turned half away from me in embarrassed chuckling: "That, Sir, is the way a woman lifts."

I was speechless. "White men," a nearby student offered, "are not strong enough to do it the man's way."

I started. At once logic, feelings, "cultural relativism," "international understanding" and Peace Corps training lectures tumbled together in my mind, heated by the blazing afternoon sun. Unable to stretch my sensibility any further, I snapped back.

"I'll be a man longer than anyone who keeps lifting heavy things like that," I shouted. The laughter stopped. *"You,"* I declared, pointing to Cletus and Ignatius and every other student, "you are the educated sons of a new Nigeria and your fathers have sent you to this school to learn things they themselves have never seen or heard of; the whole hope of the future is on your backs—if not in your groin." Disgustedly, I reeled back and kicked a cement block. *"Look,"* I continued, *"Look"* at the hernia around you, for God's sake. *Feel* the strain when you lift—can't you *feel* where it comes from?"

I paused, and from the hush came a resentful murmur: "Only the weak man gets hernia."

I pleaded reasonably: "Would you rather people merely [illegible] you are weak—or lose your male potency altogether?" "Must do it the man's way," shot back another, contained voice.

"God knows," I huffed, and stomped off.

The story, of course, does not end, for within a month of the "lesson," the number one student in our second-year class—working his way up from an impoverished clan near our campus—had to leave school with a hernia. He never returned—which is to say, his life and the hopes of his clan literally burst along with his groin.

The day after he left school, I marched into my geometry class determined to make my point. I was going to say how sorry I was for him, how even more sorry I was for the loss to his people and to Nigeria. I wanted to say, "Can't you see that to link your masculinity with straight-kneed lifting is either to put your manhood on the guillotine of inevitable modern science, or to condemn yourself to a lifetime of running from the demonstrable 'truth.' " I wanted to say, "Please."

But as I walked into the classroom behind the teacher's desk, as I looked past the black faces against the whitewashed classroom walls, out the window to the thatch houses camouflaged amid the green palms, my very foreign witness to such an Igbo dilemma struck me as obscene. I could no more have said, "I told you so," than bring curses to a funeral.

Ignorance, I realized, was not the problem—at least, on the part of my students. They had already demonstrated in classroom problem-solving sessions their ability to reason logically. My students did not need me to tell them that the Igbo fashion of lifting blocks strains the muscle which, when burst, defines a hernia. There was, rather, a principle at stake.

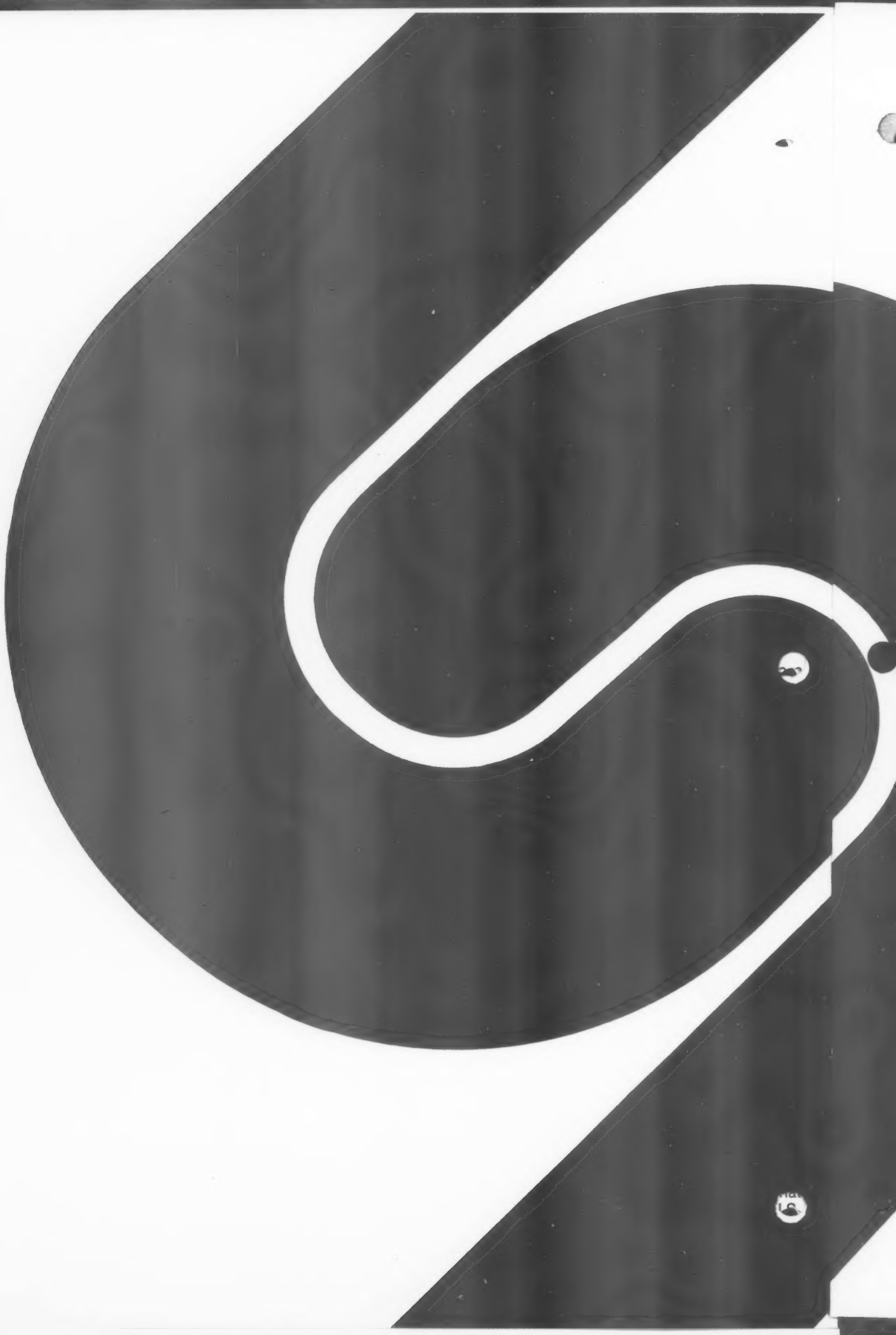
As my gaze re-entered the classroom and lingered on the empty seat, the class fell to a wounded silence that seemed to say, "Your point, Mr. Dalbey, has been made already, long ago, your people have de-masculinized our way of life to the point where it can stretch no further without rupturing completely." The facts stared back to me; not wasted in resentment, but invested in affirmation.

My Western logic, in fact, had interrupted an Igbo system of beliefs, programmed long ago to perpetuate itself on the inertia of its believers. And in the force of our confrontation, something in both of us had been strained beyond its flexibility, never to return to its customary pattern.

I saw, at last, that the primary element in any "cross-cultural sensitivity" on my part would have to be an awareness of my own culture. My role as an American could never be to rant against the innocence of a sacred Igbo past, nor to apologize for the guilt of an intruding Western present. Instead, my task could only be to bear witness, as a teacher, to my own, American culture, and as a man, to a manhood which is compatible with that culture in today's world.

There was hope for the honest man and good teacher. But that hope would require an affirmation with which Americans themselves can live, much like Baldwin's primary affirmation of his love for America and his consequent right to criticize her. For without such a possibility in the West, Igbo fathers and sons alike can only prefer having a masculinity that hurts to having none at all.

Gordon Dalbey served as a teacher in the Eastern Region of Nigeria from January, 1965 until December, 1966. On his return to the States he studied at Stanford University where he received an M.A. in Journalism. For the past two and one-half years he has been teaching algebra at Roosevelt Junior High School in San Jose, Calif.



BinationalismInGhana

by Isaac Sam

Ten months ago, the Peace Corp took a very radical step, deciding to bring nationals of the countries in which it is involved onto the staff in executive positions. Some eyebrows must have been raised. One can imagine the horror that those unshaded pupils must have expressed: "It is a security risk; nothing good will come out of it; how can you allow those 'natives' to run young American lives?"

It would have been a sad day for Peace Corps if such arguments had triumphed. In the ten months that the binational exercise has been in operation, there has been enough evidence to indicate that for Peace Corps to remain useful it must meet the needs of the changing times.

It would be unrealistic for the Peace Corps to operate in places like Peru, where multi-million investments are being taken over overnight, or in Keyna and Uganda, where Asian businessmen are being driven out, or in Ghana, where alien businessmen have come under government and public fire in recent times, and not be aware of the message inherent in those measures. In most of these instances, the motivation was to enable nationals to control their own affairs. And this is a desire in every new nation which few governments or institutions can ignore and stay alive.

The take-overs and ejections of foreign institutions and nationals are only the tip of the iceberg. In most of the countries there is an increasing demand for the control and direction of *all things* which influence national destinies.

The Peace Corps, as an institution involved in the development of these countries will, in time, face the same kind of problem. It is a credit to the organization to have discerned the currents of what is to come and initiated binational direction of its operations.

In Ghana, where Peace Corps has been since the very first Volunteer was sent abroad, the response to binationalism has been significant. The country sees in binationalism a useful means of training her own nationals. It also sees in the scheme an ideal way of achieving mutual understanding and peace while helping millions of people.

During the eight months the three of us—George Ayi-Bonte, Willie Laast and myself—have been on the staff of the Peace Corps in Ghana, a number of things have happened undreamt of in the immediate past, and they have happened because the Peace Corps is better understood in its binationalized nature.

Let me cite one example.

I remember being at a mid-tour conference for Volunteers working in cooperatives in Ghana during my first weeks on the staff. The only Ghanaian at that conference, besides myself, was one official from the agency the Volunteers worked for. He made a speech in which he in essence said: "Well, we thought we could use you on some of our problems. But it seems we made a mistake. You see, we didn't have absolute control over you, so we couldn't make much use of you. Thank you."

The man was articulating his own difficulties, but his situation could well have symbolized the relationship between Peace Corps and Ghana.

The same group of Volunteers had its termination conference a few days ago. This one was attended by officials from seven different national agencies. How come? They realized that the Peace Corps is now a tool to be used to promote un-

Ghana country director and three host country associates in Accra. From left, William Laast, Gene Martin, George Ayi-Bonte, and Isaac Sam, author of the article.

Binationalism—the involvement of foreign nationals in the planning and administration of American aid programs—has attracted growing interest in recent months.

Both the Peterson and Pearson Reports have recommended a closer working partnership between rich and poor nations. And throughout the government there is a new appreciation of the need to allow recipient countries to set their own development priorities.

The idea is not a new one to the Peace Corps. Isaac Sam is one of 70 non-Americans holding policy-making positions on the overseas Peace Corps staff.

The agency first began to seriously examine and implement the concept in late 1967 in Latin America.

Jack Vaughn spoke of the need to involve Peace Corps hosts in the agency's work in 1968, and the idea was discussed at length in two issues of the *Volunteer* in early 1969.

When he was named Peace Corps director in May, 1969, Joseph Blatchford made binationalism part of his "new directions" program, and called for the hiring of increased numbers of non-Americans, "especially in high ranking positions."

To get some feel for the present situation, the *Volunteer* asked each region how many members of their administrative staffs overseas were host country nationals who held policy-making positions. We excluded doctors, administrative assistants, secretaries, and, in some cases, administrative officers. Our intent was to determine approximately the impact of host country officials on the direction of the Peace Corps.

Here is the breakdown:

	Total Administrative Staff	Policy-making HCNs	%
Africa	60	12	20
Latin America	110	36	33
East Africa and Pacific	60	7	12
North Africa, Near East and Southern Asia	61	15	25

Such figures are somewhat arbitrary, of course. But there they are.

Most regional officials say they expect the numbers to rise even higher over the next year.

derstanding, much needed change and development. They see the Peace Corps as *their* organization because they have direct access to it through their own nationals who are in positions to interpret their requests, their anxieties, their problems and their needs. That conference was highly productive, and the national agencies were able to relate intimately to the Peace Corps Ghana.

Another result of the binationalisation of the Peace Corps in Ghana can be seen in the new relationship existing between Peace Corps Ghana and other Ministries of the Government. Not only did the Government readily release Ghanaian staff to make the exercise possible, but it is also increasingly making available Ghanaian senior officials to work closely with the agency in its efforts to transfer new skills to host country nationals.

The Ministry of Education, for example, has attached two senior officers to the in-country staff to follow the process of program development and implementation. One, a Ministry of Education Area Inspector of Schools, is currently studying Peace Corps programming and training techniques to enable him to operate more successfully in the Ministry's own in-service training program. The other officer is developing his language teaching skills.

Other Ministries and government agencies are beginning to see the potential of Peace Corps not only as a pool of Volunteers but also as a repository of training techniques and programming processes.

One could argue that the involvement of the Peace Corps in areas other than the provision of Volunteers would have happened in due course without Ghanaians on the staff. But the significant fact is that the agency is now *capable* of serving the needs of Ghana in a more meaningful way than it otherwise could have done. What a national brings to the Peace Corps is not just skill; he also brings a knowledge of people and the intricate levels of human relations within his own society. He is therefore better equipped to deal with the kinds of human problems which Peace Corps, by its very nature, is always involved in.

Internally, within the Peace Corps, a national staff member directs the organisation on procedure, presents the views and feelings of the country on Peace Corps programs, and seeks co-operation from host agencies to work on common problems.

What most countries want to see, as has been demonstrated in Ghana, is a situation in which the control and direction of what affects national destinies are in some way in the hands of nationals. Is this too much to ask?

Isaac Sam has been serving as an associate Peace Corps director in Ghana since October, 1969.

Born in Ghana in 1941, Sam was educated at the Mfantsipim Secondary School at Cape Coast and at the Institute of Journalism in Berlin.

He has worked as a public relations executive for a large firm in Freetown, Sierra Leone, as a reporter for the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation and as an associate editor of the Ghana Business Weekly.

Sam is one of three Ghanaians currently holding policy-level positions on the Peace Corps staff in that country.

Volunteer

To err is human, they say, and it must be true.

Our photo essay this month -- which appears on the following pages -- is a study of rural Colombia, through the eyes of two former Volunteers.

That's Colombia, C-o-l-O-m-b-i-a. Only somehow we spelled it C-o-l-U-m-b-i-a in our headline, and missed the error all the way through production of the magazine.

It should not have happened, and we deeply regret the slip. We offer apologies to our readers.

Rural Columbia

Peace Corps Volunteers have been at work in Colombia for nine years, concentrated largely in rural community development and education projects of massive proportions.

But growing Colombian nationalism and a new agency concern that Volunteers work only in programs of priority to Colombians has led to the termination of such traditional involvement.

The number of Volunteers at work in Colombia has fallen from a high of 800 in 1968 to 270 in 1970.

And the focus of Peace Corps programming has shifted from community development and education to agriculture.

Today a handful of Volunteers are teaching math, science and English to local university students. A small group of business graduates is also providing technical assistance to small Colombian business enterprises.

But fully 70 percent of the Volunteers now in Colombia are agriculturalists, working under Colombian supervision in Colombian agencies.

The following portrait provides a glimpse of the environment in which many of them work.

Steve Vetter and Jonathan Siegel, who photographed the essay, are both former Colombia Volunteers.

Steve was a coop extension worker and Peace Corps Volunteer leader from 1967 until 1969, when he returned to the United States to complete a master's degree in Latin American studies at Ohio University. He is currently a member of the Peace Corps staff, assigned to the agency's staging division.

Jon was a Peace Corps architect from 1966 until 1968. He has since abandoned his former profession and turned to free lance photography. He plans to spend the coming year touring the Near East, Israel and Asia.

In first discovering Colombia, one is immediately reminded of nature's role in shaping men and nations. In Colombia, it is the grandeur and ruggedness of the Andes standing against lush tropical lowland which sets the background for this nation of contrasts.

And the contrasts are striking.

From modern, fast-moving Bogota to slow-paced provincial village. From fatalism to fierce independence.

It is not a rational land; it is a passionate one.

The words of the two Latin authors quoted in this essay catch the essence of the Colombian drama. It is after all their drama and they in the end will be the ones who shape and develop that country's destiny.

—Steve Vetter

"The environment has molded this individualism into the thousand sections which make up the national territory, many of them antagonistic, most of them disunited, and all ready for battle against the natural elements . . . in short (making) men of hard labor, of violent struggle of incorrigible ardor and everywhere, men of strong nerved valor."
—Eugenio J. Gómez

"In Colombia, men have fought for ideas; anarchy there has a religious character. The sanguinary struggles have a certain rude grandeur . . . exalted convictions are the motives of political enmities; men abandon fortune and family . . . to hasten to the defense of principle . . ."
—Salvador de Madariaga

news

Bread for Social Change

In the belief that what is learned through the Volunteer experience can often be applied effectively to community needs at home, several returned Peace Corps and VISTA Volunteers have established The Independent Foundation to support community programs involving former Volunteers.

The Independent Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. Just six months old, it is presently concentrating efforts on raising operating and program funds and expects to start funding programs before the end of 1970.

The Foundation has two basic premises:

1. That many of the 50,000 people who have completed Peace Corps and VISTA service have a special understanding of community dynamics and insight into the human condition here and abroad.

2. That many of these same people would be better able to apply their skills and perspectives to domestic problems if they could obtain modest financial and technical support for community programs in which they are involved.

The Independent Foundation has set youth development, human relations, education and environment as its four general areas of priority.

In addition to providing "seed" money and financial assistance that might be unobtainable from larger foundations, The Independent Foundation hopes also to develop a network of former Volunteers to serve locally as technical advisors, program evaluators and as liaison with other community organizations and granting foundations.

Volunteers interested in learning more about the Foundation or contributing to its support may write to Thomas Katus (Tanzania I) Executive Director, The Independent Foundation, Suite 412, 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Transition Center

Former Volunteers with an interest in urban affairs will have a unique opportunity in the coming year to observe urban programs and conditions under professional guidance.

In a pilot effort to assure that the skills and experience gained by Volunteers in service abroad are best applied to domestic needs, the Peace Corps has established a "Transition Center" to assist former Volunteers to determine whether and how they are suited to urban-oriented careers.

The Transition Center will be operated in Washington, D.C., by Trans-Century Corporation, a young inner-city consultant firm whose staff includes several returned Volunteers. Volunteers will spend three weeks examining urban issues and the private organizations and public agencies dealing with them, and receive job counseling where desired.

Applications have been sent to all returned and current Volunteers who are eligible to participate in the cycles beginning September 28, November 30, February 15, 1971 and August 26, 1971. To be eligible, Volunteers must have terminated Peace Corps service within one year of the starting date of the cycle in which they wish to participate.

Families

After countless initial difficulties, Peace Corps officials in Washington now say the program to place skilled Volunteers with families abroad is proceeding smoothly. Director Blatchford says he hopes the agency will have placed at least 200 such individuals overseas by the end of 1970, and that goal seems within reach.

Here are the latest figures:

At the end of July, nearly 5,000 families had inquired about Peace Corps assignments.

Of these, 44 so far have been invited to training, 24 are in training now and four are on the job overseas, in India (2), Ecuador (1) and Bolivia (1).

It is still too early to measure the impact of the families program overseas, but in late June the *Volunteer* asked one family, the Sibleys in La Paz, Bolivia, to talk about their experiences so far. Here is their report:

We have been here two and one-half months now, and are still becoming accustomed to this new culture. Jerry's projected job placement at Cenpritec has worked out very well. He is working to upgrade a plumbing course at that school and helping design a new repair course with his Bolivian counterpart. Judy is working in El Alto, teaching children at the Sandra Smith School *[a school built with Peace Corps School Partnership funds in memory of a Volunteer who taught and died there in 1969—Editor]*. Construction is finally beginning on a new school. As of now, Judy has 43 students registered and a daily attendance of about 25.

The Bolivians with whom we live and work have reacted favorably to us. Because we are a family unit, we have a lot of things in common with them.

We have had the typical problems of a family moving to a new location, compounded, of course, by language barriers, cultural differences and illnesses. We have had to accustom ourselves to boiling and filtering all water, soaking fruit and some vegetables in iodine, and trying to watch the foods we eat. For Judy, housekeeping is more difficult than it was in the States: washing is done by hand, marketing is done by barter, and cooking is done from scratch. We have hired someone to help wash, cook and watch the children while we are at work. And, though we hate to admit it, being a typical two-car family has made it difficult for us to adjust to buses and taxis as means of transportation.

The children have adjusted beautifully. Both have Bolivian and American playmates, and are learning Spanish rapidly, especially our seven-year old. We have two girls, Kristena, 8, going into third grade, and Gretchen, 6, starting kindergarten in September. Both will attend the American school in La Paz, which is also attended by Bolivian children. We had originally wanted to send them to a Bolivian school, but after talking with both Americans and Bolivians, who told us the local system needs upgrading, we decided not to.

The family program was initially plagued with problems, due largely, we feel, to poor pre-training selection, which led Peace Corps to send six families to the Escondido training center without medical, financial, or security clearances. The training center was well prepared to meet the needs of the families, but because of all the problems brought unsettled to the camp, there were continual frustrations.

The Sibleys at Escondido: top, Judy; below, from left, Kristena, Jerry, and Gretchen.

Initially, also, there was some animosity between the single and married trainees, a result of the great attention given the "new directions" families by the administration. But training ended on a happy note, and we're glad of that. We work daily with single Volunteers and have become close friends with many of them.

In Bolivia, we have been accepted, without exception, by all of the Volunteers working here. The in-country staff has done everything it could to help us get settled.

We each receive standard Peace Corps subsistence pay, plus half that amount for each of our daughters. We have received, additionally, an allowance for a refrigerator and an allowance to pay for the girls' education.

We find this arrangement to be fine, and we recommend that all Volunteer families be paid on a similar scale while abroad.

We feel strongly that families should be treated no differently than single Volunteers, in financial arrangements, language requirements, or performance expectations.

Congress

The 1971 Peace Corps authorization bill was voted out by Congress and signed into law by President Nixon in late July.

In its final version the bill includes provisions allowing the agency to recruit and maintain Volunteer families overseas, and to participate in an international volunteer corps, should such an organization become a reality.

The bill also includes an amendment attached by Rep. H.R. Gross (R-Iowa) which permits—but does not require—the director to prescribe regulations to govern the political behavior of Volunteers overseas (see May-June *Volunteer*, "News", pg. 20).

Finally, the bill authorizes the Peace Corps to spend up to $98.8 million in FY1971, the amount originally requested by President Nixon in February.

But the agency is still without funds for the new fiscal year. How much the agency will be appropriated depends on what action the House and Senate take within the next few weeks.

The House Appropriations Committee has already recommended an allotment of $80 million. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet met to consider the Peace Corps budget request.

United Nations Volunteers: Closer

The United Nations is moving closer towards creation of an international group of Volunteers, with final action on a proposal submitted by the Economic and Social Council expected by the General Assembly sometime this fall.

On July 28, the Council voted to recommend to the General Assembly that it "establish within the existing framework of the United Nations system" an international volunteer organization by January 1, 1971. No country voted against the resolution, which contains specific guidelines for such a volunteer corps, and only three countries abstained (USSR, Bulgaria, and Congo-Brazzaville).

The resolution is based on a feasibility study completed by the Council in early April. That study called for 1300 volunteers by summer, 1971, and named ISVS and CoCo as clearing houses for finding Volunteers among existing volunteer agencies.

Policy Briefs

In the past two months guidelines on programming, mid-service conferences and training have been issued by Washington. They are dramatic.

Check with your local staff for further information.

The *Volunteer* is preparing follow-up reports which will be out soon.

switchboard

For all the current emphasis on technical skills and experience in the Peace Corps, the ability to read and acquire information from written documents remains, perhaps, the greatest resource of Volunteers working abroad.

Just about every good idea anyone has ever had on any given subject has been written down someplace.

All you have to do is find it.

The clearing-house for job-related technical information in Peace Corps Washington is an outfit called the Information Resources Division (IRD), located in the agency's Office of Program Development, Evaluation and Research (PDER). Staffers there have built up an impressive collection of contacts and documents over the past few years. They may not necessarily *have* the information you want, but they can probably tell you *where* to find it or *whom* to ask for advice.

Suppose you need technical help. What should you do?

Switchboard put that question to IRD recently. Here is their answer:

First, contact your in-country Peace Corps office, stating your problems and the kind of assistance you think you need.

- Because of their experience in programming, your local staff members will probably be familiar with other organizations doing work like yours in your host country. Such organizations may be able to provide you with the help you need.
- Most in-country offices have technical libraries, which include a number of manuals and handbooks distributed by IRD (see box).
- Many country staffs now include technical specialists whose job it is to provide Volunteers with technical backstopping.
- Your country director has the authority to order any book you need directly from the publisher.
- Other Volunteers in your country may have already asked for help on problems similar to yours, in which case your answer will come back much faster than had you written Washington.
- Finally, by knowing the problems and needs of Volunteers in his country, a director can more actively support them in their work.

At the same time, begin investigating local resources outside the Peace Corps.

- Your host country ministry or institution, local universities, libraries.
- Local offices of private organizations like the Rockefeller or Ford Foundations, the Educational Development Corporation, or American university-sponsored research projects.
- Local offices of national and international assistance agencies, such as USAID, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Bank, British Council, or other voluntary organizations (VSO, CUSO, etc.)

If these approaches fail to provide the help you need, then write IRD, in Washington.

When you do, however, the Peace Corps *Manual* requires that your request be sent through your country director, a requirement which is not, incidentally, founded on mere bureaucratic whimsy. Letters to IRD must be endorsed by your staff to indicate they are familiar with your needs and have been unable to secure the assistance you need. Their signature also gives IRD the authorization to purchase any publication should it be required (IRD, incidentally, uses regional program funds when it makes such purchases; there is no reason why *you* should have to spend your own money).

There is a fourth approach now open to you.

It may be that the information and help you seek is available within the Volunteer community. Volunteers have been at work in international development for nearly ten years, but they have left little record of their individual thoughts or innovations.

You may, therefore, wish to place a query in *Switchboard,* asking for advice from active or former Volunteers.

So much for technical, job-related support.

As for information relating to language, cross-cultural encounter and film and filmstrip materials, that lies elsewhere; in the Office of Training Support; in training centers; in universities and institutions which have conducted past training programs for the agency; in the heads of individuals scattered, literally, across the face of the earth.

That we will tackle in a later column.

Editor's Note—The following letter appeared recently in Compost, *the magazine of Volunteers in Ceylon. Robert Flick, its author, was a Volunteer in Ecuador before joining CARE in 1966. Although his letter was addressed originally to the newly arrived Volunteers of Ceylon III and Ceylon IV, it has worldwide relevance.*

As a recently arrived Volunteer settles into his job site, and begins to speculate about his future, he often sees many ways in which to contribute. He thinks broadly and conceives grand plans.

At this point it is easy for the PCV, in his desire to get something going, to reach out for material assistance from any number of international organizations. He may rationalize that by obtaining such assistance for his institution or counterpart organization, he will be able to successfully begin some project, and gain affection and respect, while helping some deserving people.

But one of the aims of the Peace Corps is to provide human resources for the socio-economic development of the host country. Volunteers are not sent overseas to obtain gifts and assistance for the host country. If this were the case, then the Peace Corps would no doubt have funds with which to support projects undertaken by Volunteers or would have prior arrangements with other organizations like USAID, the Asia Foundation, or CARE, for this purpose.

I think a far more lasting contribution can be made to the development of the host country by mobilizing and bringing together local institutions, organizations and people to achieve a particular project goal, rather than relying on outside help.

If the host country nationals think that a program or idea is valid, they will support it. If a PCV is unable to enlist support, then why should an international organization support it?

A Volunteer is sent to a country to contribute ideas. If a counterpart organization is led to believe that because of a PCV's arrival the sky will open and shower it with items from abroad, then I think that the Volunteer has failed to understand the problem.

Robert Flick
Colombo, Ceylon

Frank and Joyce Antonson, two Brazilian Volunteers working in crafts, would like to see the formation of an international cooperative, composed of individual or central craft cooperatives, which could coordinate the marketing of poor peoples' handicrafts and help eliminate middlemen.

They see the Peace Corps as the only organization which could possibly organize such a world-wide, grass-roots organization, and are preparing a study of the possibility of such an agency-sponsored project.

They would both appreciate ideas and information from other Volunteers working with craft cooperatives anxious to reach large world markets.

Write: Frank and Joyce Antonson, a/c COOPOLÉ, Catolé do Rocha, Paraibam, Brazil.

Editor's Note—Brian Whisman (March-April Switchboard), John Carter (May-June Switchboard) and the Antonsons seem to be into the same sort of thing. Apparently, the international marketing of crafts is of world-wide interest.

We hope you get together.

One suggestion: keep copies of your correspondence. IRD is interested in compiling any information you manage to collect.

At present, Peace Corps recommends two basic booklets to Volunteers interested in crafts marketing outside of their host country:

- Cooperative Crafts Manual, *by former Ecuador Volunteer Joan Ward, and former Brazil Volunteers Myra and Earl Copus, reprinted by IRD for field use.*
- Craft Shops/Galleries USA, *by the American Crafts Council, a listing of over 500 shops, galleries, and workshop showrooms in the United States which sell American crafts, specifying the types of crafts marketed by each shop, and indicating whether or not it wishes to hear from other craftsmen. The booklet is available, for $2.00 (postage included) from the American Crafts Council, 29 West 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.*

The following American periodicals deal specifically with crafts:

American Fabrics, *$12.00, Doric Publications, Inc., 24 E. 38th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, monthly.*

Arts and Architecture, *$5.00, 3305 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90005, bi-monthly.*

Crafts Horizons, *$6.00, American Craftsmen's Council, 44 W. 53rd St., New York, N.Y. 10019, monthly, covers handicrafts.*

Creative Crafts, *$5.00, 6015 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90038, bi-monthly, covers art industries and handicrafts.*

Design, *$4.50, Design Publishing Co., 337 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215, monthly, covers the study and teaching of handicrafts.*

Everyday Art, *$1.00, American Crayon Co., Sandusky, Ohio 44870, three times a year, covers the study and teaching of crafts.*

School Arts, *$6.00, Davis Press, Printers Bldg., Worcester, Mass. 01601, monthly, September through June, covers the study and teaching of crafts.*

The *Volunteer* magazine currently has active correspondents in only half of the countries in which the Peace Corps is working.

We need more, in order to remain responsive to the Volunteer community which we serve.

Qualifications: ability to write in clear, concise English, and contact with a large segment of the Volunteer community in your country. Background in journalism helpful, but not required.

Duties: serve as an in-country editor for the magazine, covering stories of significance in your country and helping research depth stories of interest to the entire Peace Corps community (ecology, low-cost housing techniques, the impact of nationalism on Peace Corps work in Africa and Latin America, etc.) In brief, a correspondent is our man on the spot, with a broad mandate to keep his eyes and ears open for material which would be of use and interest to the world-wide Peace Corps community.

If you are interested, write John Osborn, Editor, *Volunteer,* Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. 20525. Send a sample of your writing and some information about your background and the nature of your Peace Corps assignment. Please send your letter through your country director.

Goodies

In addition to providing job-related technical support to Volunteers and staff overseas, the Information Resources Division (see lead item in "Switchboard") also reprints and stocks an assortment of manuals and materials which have found wide application in Peace Corps work.

The following are currently available at no charge and may be obtained by writing IRD *through your in-country staff.*

IRD, however, has been distributing many of these materials to overseas posts for years. It is important, therefore, that you look for the publication you want in your local Peace Corps office before writing Washington. As one IRD staffer recently: "There are probably loads of these booklets laying about unused overseas . . . or propping up the sink."

General

FAR EAST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS of NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, 1966. American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, Inc.

HENLEY'S TWENTIETH CENTURY BOOK OF FORMULAS, PROCESSES AND TRADE SECRETS. Sloane.

LATIN AMERICA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS of U.S. NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, 1967. American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, Inc.

TECH NOTES. July 1968, January 1969, and August 1969 issues. PC/Technical Resources Division.

Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION TRAINING HANDBOOK FOR TRAINERS. AID.

AGRICULTURAL MATHEMATICS FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. D&R.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE: AFRICA. Taylor.

AMERICAN PEACE CORPS POULTRY BOOKLET. PC/India.

BEST WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR SOIL. Organic Gardening and Farming.

BIGGER CROPS AND BETTER STORAGE. FAO.

CROP PRODUCTION HANDBOOK FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. D&R.

DR. SALISBURY'S MANUAL OF POULTRY DISEASES. Dr. Salisbury's Laboratories.

FERTILIZER USE IN CORN PRODUCTION. Leonard/Ag Coordinator, PCTC, P. R. A *Tech Notes* article adapted from "Be Your Own Corn Doctor".

FRESH PRODUCE HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION. VITA.

GLOSSARY OF AGRICULTURE TERMS—English/French, French/English. Also English/Spanish, Spanish/English edition. American University.

HANDBOOK OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE. AID.

HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING IN EL SALVADOR. PCV Bellotti.

HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES. D&R.

HOW TO SALT FISH. VITA.

IMPROVED PRACTICES IN CORN PRODUCTION. Leonard/Ag Coordinator, PCTC, P. R.

IRRIGATION PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES. D&R.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY IN LATIN AMERICA. University of Florida.

POULTRY HANDBOOK FOR AFRICA. Krusch/APCD, Sierra Leone.

SMALLER FARMLANDS CAN YIELD MORE. FAO.

SMOKING FISH IN A CARDBOARD SMOKEHOUSE. VITA.

SOILS, CROPS AND FERTILIZER USE: A GUIDE FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. Leanard/Ag Coordinator, PCTC, P. R.

SPRINKLER IRRIGATION. FAO.

TECHNICAL DICTIONARY — English/French. Bumpus/PC, Gabon.

TRAINING GUIDE FOR PEACE CORPS AGRICULTURE PROJECTS. D&R.

VEGETABLE GARDENING IN THE CARIBBEAN. USDA.

WESTERN FERTILIZER HANDBOOK. California Fertilizer Association.

Arts & Crafts

ART TEACHING GUIDE—HAWAII—KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE. Piera.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ARTS AND CRAFTS. Douglass/PC.

Community Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK. Hernandez/PCD, Guatemala.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERIES A. AID:

An Introduction to CD for Village Workers
Making Council Meetings More Successful
CD in Urban and Semi-Urban Areas
Community Development and Social Change
Community Development, Extension and the Village AID Synthesis
Conference on Conference Planning
The Village-AID Worker and Democratic Program Planning

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERIES B. AID: Case Studies—Five Community Development Stories out of West Africa.

HOMEMAKING AROUND THE WORLD. AID.

LITERATURE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT—A BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDE. Mezirow.

REMOTE AREAS DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK: TROPICAL NOTEBOOK. Community Development Counseling Service, Inc.

REMOTE AREAS DEVELOPMENT MANUAL. Community Development Counseling Service, Inc.

VILLAGE TECHNOLOGY HANDBOOK. AID/VITA. 2 volumes.

Construction

BAMBOO AS A BUILDING MATERIAL. USDA/Office of International Housing.

BUILDING DESIGN MANUAL. East Pakistan Rural Public Works.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER WELLS FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. VITA.

HANDBOOK FOR BUILDING HOMES OF EARTH. Texas Transportation Institute.

HANDBOOK OF CONSTRUCTION. East Pakistan Rural Public Works Program.

HOUSING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN. FAO and Caribbean Commission.

LOW COST DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL WATER POWER SITES. VITA.

MAKING BUILDING BLOCKS WITH THE CINVA RAM. VITA.

MANUAL OF STANDARD BRIDGE DESIGN. East Pakistan Rural Public Works Program.

PLANNING, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOW-VOLTAGE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEMS AND SUBSYSTEMS FOR PCVS. VITA.

PLAYGROUND MANUAL. VITA.

SMALL SCALE MANUFACTURE OF BURNED BUILDING BRICK. VITA.

SMALL WELLS MANUAL. Gibson and Singer. AID.

Co-Operatives

COOPERATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN LATIN AMERICA. Long.

COOPERATIVE CROPS MANUAL. RPCVs Ward/Ecuador and Copus/Brazil.

Education—TEFL

AFRICAN PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAM. Report of the 1967 Aksombo, Ghana Workshop.

THE PEACE CORPS TEACHER IN ETHIOPIA. Lipez.

SIXTH REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT, 1968. American Association for the Advancement of Science and the University of Maryland.

TEACHING AND LIVING IN AFRICA. Coyne/PC.

TEFL

COURSE IN ENGLISH FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA. TEFL PCVs/Niger.

HOW TO TEACH READING: MANUAL FOR STUDENTS OF ETHIOPIAN TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTES. Dintefass/PC.

TEACHING ENGLISH IN EXHILARATING CIRCUMSTANCES. Fanselow.

Health Education

EDUCATION IN HEALTH. AID.

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF PROTEIN-RICH FOODS. FAO.

FAMILY PLANNING KIT:
Birth Control. Time-Life.
The Population Explosion.
Understanding Conception and Contraception. Ortho Pharmaceutical Corp.

FOOD COMPOSITION TABLE FOR USE IN AFRICA. FAO and HEW/Public Health.

HANDBOOK OF CHILD NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Jelliffe. HEW/Public Health.

HEALTH AND SANITATION IN WEST AFRICA (Niger)—Flip Charts and Dialogue. PC. Health.

HEALTH, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY—Case Studies of Public Reactions to Health Programs. Paul.

HEALTH EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. For use in Africa. Holmes.

HEALTH EDUCATION OF THE TROPICAL MOTHER IN FEEDING HER YOUNG CHILD. HEW.

HEALTH SCIENCE FOR THE TROPICS. For use in British school systems. Godman.

HEALTH TRAINING RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. Compiled by PC.

LESSONS FOR MIDWIVES. South Carolina State Board of Health.

OF GERMS, WORMS AND YOU. Corwin.

SANITATION SERIES. FES/AID:
†*Drink Safe Water
†*How to Wash Your Clothes
Personal Cleanliness
*Wash Dishes Right
Get Rid of Household Pests
Dispose of Waste
Storing Food at Home
Prepare Safe Meals
Care for Your Infant
Make Your Own Soap
†Available in Portuguese
*Available in Spanish

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE YUNGAS AREA OF BOLIVIA. Bolivian Ministry of Public Health and PC/Bolivia.

VISION SCREENING KITS. American Optometric Association.

VISUAL AIDS FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. PC/MED.

WATER PURIFICATION, DISTRIBUTION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. VITA.

making it

Function: To publish technical solutions to development problems from members of the Peace Corps community.
Purpose: To encourage the sharing of such information among Peace Corps workers.
Procedure: Address all articles or queries to: Making It, *Volunteer,* Room 622, Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. 20525. Pictures and technical drawings are extremely helpful. If your device or idea has been evaluated, be sure to include that information as well.

by Thomas F. Gross

I am a Volunteer working in Colombia, South America, Soatá, Boyaca, as an extensionist for the Colombian Agricultural Extension Service.

A while ago an insect problem presented itself in one of the fertilizer demonstrations I was running. The recommended control for this particular situation was dusting with pesticide. But the local agency to which I am assigned had no duster, and no plans for building one were available in the technical material I had available (*Remote Areas Development Manual; Village Technology Handbook C1-11; or Village Technology Handbook C1-12).*

So I put myself to designing and making one.

I developed a prototype which worked but proved rather crude, so I made further modifications and eventually arrived at the device described in this article.

I've used it on several occasions and would give it comparable ratings with many "manufactured" hand-operated dusters. The size will depend, of course, on how much "Quaker Oats" you eat, since a "Quaker Oats" can is the prime component of this model. I personally recommend you eat lots of oats. Not only are they good for you, but the large cans will increase the capacity of the duster you build.

Since I had no great material resources at my disposal, all of the components are scraps and items you might find in your house, or easily purchase in any town, at least in Latin America.

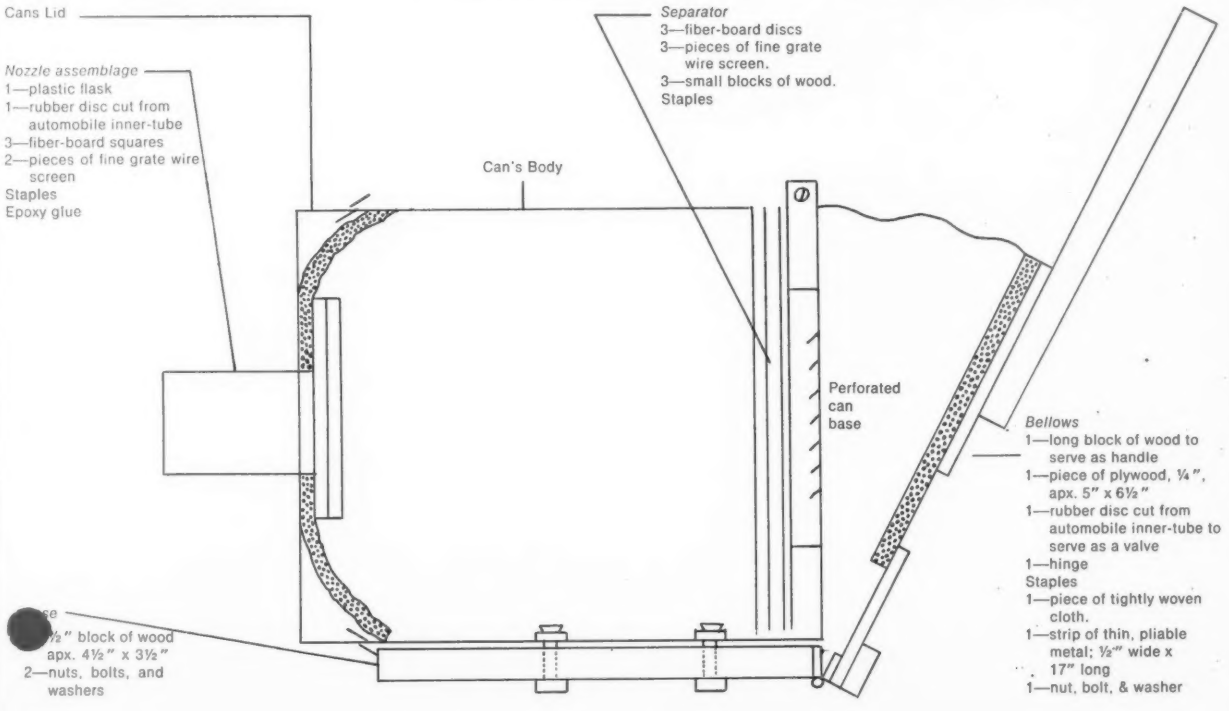
I've named the duster the "Quaker Oats Duster," for obvious reasons. Any large can, however, will do nicely for the device's main body. Other materials used include:
—pieces of fiberboard;
—plywood;
—an automobile inner tube;
—1 plastic flask;
—staples;
—epoxy glue;
—and some tightly woven cloth (canvas, plastic coated material, etc.).

I estimate the cost of the duster to be about $8.00 *pesos colombianos,* or 50 cents in American money.

I believe simplicity of construction, low cost, and acceptable performance would make this device an asset for any small farmer in combating insect problems.

Tom Moore has been working as a crop extensionist with the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario since June, 1969. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the duster write him at : Cuerpo de Paz, Oficina Avianca, Malaga, Santander, Colombia.

The duster he has described has not been evaluated by Peace Corps specialists, and they also would like to hear reports of its performance. Write: Ellen Perna, PDER/IRD, Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. 20525, who also has a more detailed set of plans.


Cans Lid
Nozzle assemblage
1—plastic flask
1—rubber disc cut from automobile inner-tube
3—fiber-board squares
2—pieces of fine grate wire screen
Staples
Epoxy glue
Separator
3—fiber-board discs
3—pieces of fine grate wire screen.
3—small blocks of wood.
Staples
Can's Body
Perforated can base
Bellows
1—long block of wood to serve as handle
1—piece of plywood, ¼", apx. 5" x 6½"
1—rubber disc cut from automobile inner-tube to serve as a valve
1—hinge
Staples
1—piece of tightly woven cloth.
1—strip of thin, pliable metal; ½" wide x 17" long
1—nut, bolt, & washer
½" block of wood apx. 4½" x 3½"
2—nuts, bolts, and washers

survival

This month *Survival* visited the Office of Medical Programs, looking for medical problems which might be of concern to the world-wide Volunteer community.

We found several.

And we found one we weren't looking for: Accidents.

Accidents?

That's right.

In the first half of 1970, 11 Volunteers died overseas, a figure well above the average fatality rate. And the doctors think half of them could probably have been prevented.

We asked Roger Clapp, a Peace Corps physician who has been reviewing accident reports from overseas, what he thought the problems were.

"The main problem," he said, "is carelessness."

He read us the figures for 1970: five Volunteers killed in automobile accidents; two Volunteers killed in the Peruvian earthquake; one motorcycle fatality; one fall; one fatal illness; one case of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Do these figures reflect the general experience of Peace Corps over the past nine years, we asked?

Roughly, he said. Nearly a third of the 71 Volunteers killed overseas have died in automobile and motorcycle accidents. But the second largest cause of death, said Clapp, has been accidental drowning. Several have died in airplane mishaps. Beyond that, the causes have been miscellaneous.

Well what can be done, we asked.

Here are his recommendations:

Wear a seat belt anytime you are traveling in a motor vehicle: there is now clear evidence that seatbelts prevent death, even in collisions at speeds in excess of sixty miles per hour.

Make sure that vehicles you use are properly maintained: there is a strong suspicion among many in Washington that Peace Corps vehicles in many countries are not getting regular and proper servicing.

Wear a helmet anytime you are riding a motorcycle: several Volunteers have died in low-speed accidents which have done little damage to their cycles. Had they worn helmets, they would have sustained no more than a mild concussion.

Never operate a fuel burning device—fireplace, stove, water heater, vehicle—in an unventilated room: to do so is an open invitation to carbon monoxide poisoning.

A few words about that.

One doesn't associate a warm fire or a hot water heater with death. Nor with carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide poisoning, we have all learned, takes place when you run an automobile engine in a closed garage. What is not so well known is that *anytime* you burn a carbon fuel (wood, natural gas, coal) in a closed space, carbon monoxide is formed, due to the relative absence of oxygen.

Moreover, carbon monoxide does not smell like auto exhaust, as many of us have been led to believe. It is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas. And it is deadly. It gives no warning. One may only be aware of its presence by a feeling of tightness in the head, moments before losing consciousness.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is believed to have been the cause of death of a number of early arctic explorers, found dead in their cabins with their stoves running. Colin Fletcher, in his book, *The Complete Walker*, also rec a number of near misses among mountaineers who tried to run small primus cooking stoves in their air-tight tents.

Finally, always investigate the conditions of any area in which you plan to swim: are there crocodiles? sharks? any problem with tides? sinkholes? And never try to exceed your abilities, regardless of your private vision of masculine or feminine prowess.

Accident prevention formulas, of course, are hard to take seriously. We are too used to hearing them sandwiched between cigarette commercials on holiday weekends. Death seems to most of us to be largely a matter of fate.

We suggested that to Dr. Clapp.

He agreed, and said many Volunteers tend to view accident warnings as staff interference. But, he said, in Washington, where accident reports are recorded and analysed, Volunteer deaths fall into patterns that are too neat to be ascribed to fate.

Added Clapp: "By far the majority of those deaths have been needless, unnecessary, meaningless, foolish and senseless."

Volunteer

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